

REMARKS

In the Office Action the Examiner rejected Claims 1-7 and 12-13 under 35 U.S.C §103(a) as being unpatentable over U.S. Patent 3,611,656 to Chidsey. Further, the Examiner indicated that Claims 8-11 would be allowable if rewritten in independent form to include the limitations of the claims from which they correspondingly depend. Applicant submits that all pending claims are allowable over the art.

In particular, independent Claim 1 is directed to a method for handling a plurality of syringe bodies that includes the steps of positioning the syringe bodies in a predetermined orientation, interconnecting the syringe bodies in that predetermined orientation, and packaging the interconnected syringe bodies in a container after the interconnecting step. The method further includes the steps of unpackaging the interconnected syringe bodies from the container after the packaging step, and locating the interconnected syringe bodies in the predetermined orientation in a plurality of holders for at least one production operation after the unpackaging step. As may be noted, Claim 1 now includes language corresponding with prior Claim 2 and Claim 10 (previously objected to), and Claims 2 and 10 have been cancelled. The prior art fails to disclose the method of Claim 1.

In particular, Chidsey fails to disclose or otherwise render obvious any method for handling a plurality of syringe bodies, much less a method in which syringe bodies are positioned and interconnected in a predetermined orientation and/or packaged and unpackaged as an interconnected

plurality and/or located as an interconnected plurality in the predetermined orientation in a plurality of holders for at least one production operation after unpackaging.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants submits that independent Claim 1 is allowable over the art. Additionally, Applicant submits that dependent Claims 4-13 and 21-26 are allowable for the same reasons as Claim 1, and further since such Claims comprise further combinative features not disclosed or rendered obvious by the prior art.

Applicant believes that new independent Claim 27 is also allowable over the prior art. In this regard, Applicant notes that Claim 27 is directed to a method for handling a plurality of syringe bodies that includes the positioning and interconnecting steps of independent Claim 1, and that further includes language of prior pending Claim 2 and the labeling step language of Claim 9 (previously objected to). Again, Applicant submits that the prior art fails to disclose or render obvious the method of Claim 27.

For example, Chidsey fails to disclose any method for handling a plurality of syringe bodies, much less a method in which a plurality of syringe bodies are positioned and interconnected in a predetermined orientation and/or in which an interconnected plurality of syringe bodies are located in the predetermined orientation in a plurality of holders and labeled to indicate the contents thereof.

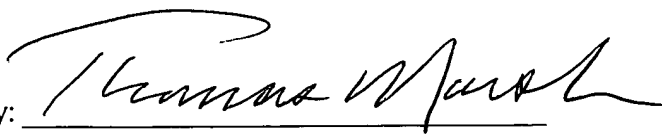
In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that new independent Claim 27 is allowable. Further, Applicant submits that new dependant Claims 28-37 are allowable for the same reasons as

Claim 27, and further since such Claims comprise additional combinative features not taught or rendered obvious by the prior art.

Based upon the foregoing, Applicants believe that all pending claims are in condition for allowance and such disposition is respectfully requested. In the event that a telephone conversation would further prosecution and/or expedite allowance, the Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned.

Respectfully submitted,

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Date: 1/18/05